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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT New Uranium Mining District in the Oelsnitz-Auerbach Area

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New Uranium Mining District in the OELSNITZ-AUERBACH Area1 April 1949

1. Billboard announcement at the PLAUEN RR station regarding the restricted area in the OELSNITZ Landkreis. (Text see par 12, a).

End of March 1949

2. The last few days in March 1949 the town of BAD ELSTER (M 51/P 19) was included in the restricted area. Police controls were intensified and mail was subjected to stricter censorship since that time.

March 1949

3. Uranium was allegedly found in a sand pit near OELSNITZ. A new uranium mine shaft was opened southeast of PLAUEN in the vicinity of BERGEN. The labor office was said to have detailed 4,000 men and women to this site.

February 1949

4. The SMA prospected for uranium deposits in BERGEN near PLAUEN, in ZWOSCHWITZ near PLAUEN and in various other localities of the Vogtland district. Some areas were already marked.

End of March 1949

5. Propaganda bills for BERGEN (M 51/K 21).

Middle of February 1949

6. a. The PLAUEN Labor Office was requested in the first half of February to recruit 1,000 men to be employed in

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the BERGEN (approximately 8 miles ESE of PLAUEN) area for rock drillings in search for uranium ores.

b. A PLAUEN textile tradesman who was touring the BERGEN area also reported that he recently saw indications of large-scale mining activity.

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March 1949

7. Two inhabitants of STOELBERG/Bzg. Webirge (N 51/K 54) reported on 24 March 1949 that brisk prospecting activity was going on in BERGEN and STOECKIGT near PLAUEN.

April 1949

8. The uranium mining area reached as far as BERGEN/Voigtland and will probably also extend into the area in the vicinity of PLAUEN. Exploratory drillings, some of them successful, have already been made near KRIETZSCHWITZ (N 51/F 37), STRASSENG (M 51/H 01) and KEMMLER. A lode with an alleged content of 24 percent was discovered in SCHREIERSGRUEN/Voigtland.

a. There was no indication that work would be discontinued in the uranium mining district. The labor force had not been decreased anywhere.

March 1949

9. The AUERBACH/Voigtland was declared off limits on 4 March 1949. The towns of LENGENFELD, RODEWISCH and FALKENSTEIN were in the restricted area. Findings of Uranium-containing ore in the newly opened mines near SCHLEIERSGRUEN and BERGEN were responsible for the cordoning off of this area. The PECHTLISGRUEN ore dressing plant as well as the mining district around TANNENBERGSTHAL were then located within the restricted area. The identity cards of the local population bore a red stamp.

March 1949

10. Prospecting was done in the FALKENSTEIN/Voigtland, WERNIGROH, AUELBACH, TANNENBERGSTHAL and BERGEN/Voigtland area, and drillings at the Kahlberg and Lendelstein near AUERBACH.

March 1949

11. New uranium deposits occurring near the surface were discovered in the PLAUEN area, but mining was difficult as the material needed for tubing and equipping the prospecting sites could hardly be supplied despite all efforts. Tubes for the conveyor and ventilator systems were especially short.

April 1949

12. a. On 1 April 1949 the FLOESTA and OELSNITZ/Voigtland rural districts were declared off limits, this resulting in the customary traffic restrictions. A billboard announcement at the PLAUEN railroad station listed the following restricted railroad stations: ADOH, DAL ELSTEN, BERGEN, ERLBACH, FALKENSTEIN, GRUNEBACH, GUNZIE, HUNDSGRUEN, KLINGENTHAL, MARKTGKIRCHEN, MULDENBERG, DAL BRAIBACH, RAUN, SACHESENBERG-GEORGENTHAL, SCHOENBECK, SIEBENBRUNN, SOHL, ZWOTA, ZWOPA-ZESCHENBACH, ZWOTENTHAL.

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b. Teletype letter of the Reichsbahn:
 "Sort B of Kre. Neu No. 7 of 9 April 1949

To all stations, "Rka", baggage dispatch offices, tourist offices, information offices, Reichsbahn offices, offices "V.B.A." V 118/119, December 30/33, Pa, Trade Union delegate, Reichsbahn Administration in BERLIN, COTTBUS, DRESDEN, GERMISWALD, MAGDEBURG, HALLE, SCHWERIN.

Subject: Restricted RR stations, Pr.(?) V 102
 VPA of 10 February 1948

Effective immediately the number of restricted RR stations is increased by the following RR stations located in the AUERBACH/Vogtland rural district: AUERBACH/Vogtland upper station and lower station, EICH/Saxony, ELLEFELD, HAIMLERBRUECKE, KIRLASGRUEN, IRPERSGRUEN, LOHENFELD/Vogtland, LIPFACH/Vogtland, RAUTENKIRZ, RODEWISCH, TANNENBERGSTHAL, THOSSFELLE, TREUEN. Tickets to these stations can only be issued if a travel certificate of the Occupation Authorities is produced. Only those persons are excepted who reside or permanently work in these restricted localities.

Billboard announcements must be made.

Dresden Reichsbahn Administration
 9 V 111 VPA"

c. Shutdown of a mine in BERGEN/Vogtland and opening of a new mine in SCHNEIDERGRUEN. (Information gathered from conversation with workmen) Work in the recently opened mine in BERGEN/Vogtland was suspended due to low production results. The new mine in SCHNEIDERGRUEN located between THULM and FALKENSTEIN/Vogtland yielded above-average results and therefore remained in operation. The mine near and below the Filzteich near SCHNEEBERG generally was considered as the most productive mining site.

March 1949

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13. The Soviets are prospecting for uranium ores in OBER-BRAMBACH and in the BERGEN area. This resulted in cordoning off the OELSNETZ/Vogtland and AUERBACH/Vogtland rural districts.